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#2  
KW  
1-31-02

Docket No.: 2309/OJ753

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Satoshi MIZUTANI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/940,711

Confirmation No.: 5768

Filed: August 27, 2001

For: ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING FIBROUS LAYER ON SURFACE

RECEIVED  
JAN 30 2002  
TC 1700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for  
Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a  
copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested  
that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is  
not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and

that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith a copy of a Search Report issued December 27, 2001 for the European counterpart of the present patent application (Application No. 01307407.5-2414-), in which the presently disclosed references were cited. Since a translation of the Search Report is also enclosed, or the Search Report utilizes conventional codes to characterize each cited reference, it is believed that the applicants in the above-identified patent application have now met the "concise explanation" requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

This submission is filed within three months of the filing of the application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of

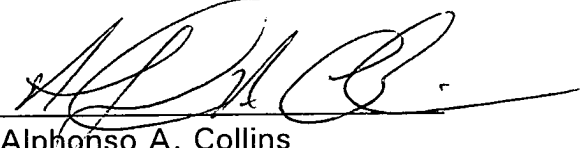
examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

It is believed that no fee is due. However, if the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above deposit account for any deficiency.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 22, 2002

  
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